

HOW TO:

LIVE

COMFORTABLY

IN A CO-LIVING

SPACE

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PROLOGUE

In this current time of housing crises and overpopulation, people now look for convenience, affordability, and a sense of community. Co-living creates an easier and affordable way for people and even migrants to reside in their favorite place in a city like Berlin.

While co-living might not be the only option for housing solutions, it is becoming one of the best options for any immigrant in a new city. Co-living is even now popular as people now crave for more sense of security, community and lovely neighborhoods. However, is there any such as co-living etiquettes? How can a person live peacefully and comfortably in a shared apartment? What about some unknown challenges? These are some of the questions we try to answer in the book.

CHAPTER ONE

**HOW TO LIVE PEACEFULLY &
COMFORTABLY WITH YOUR FLATMATES**

Consider the following scenario: you moved to a new city/country to pursue your dream job, or you just enrolled in that university you have been intending to get into for a long time. The job you got/university you got into is fantastic, but there is a small catch. You have to share your space with your flatmates. However, since you had your private room in your parents' house, how do you live with others when you don't know how to share space with strangers? What's the trick to turning these strangers or flatmates into your friends and living peacefully with them? Well, that's exactly what we're going to talk about in this guide today. Here are a few tips for cohabiting peacefully with your flatmates.

#1. COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

If you want to save time and effort while living with flatmates, the first and most significant thing you need to do is figure out what your flatmates like and dislike. Your flatmates will be impressed if you take the time to learn their interests and dislikes. They will enjoy it, and getting to know one another will allow you to see whether you share any interests. The more you share, the more you can accomplish together.

#2. HAVE PATIENCE AND BE FRIENDLY.

The most effective way to maintain peace is to be polite and friendly. When you live with others, you must also be patient. Things may start to fall apart as you get to know one other better. You may notice that dishes are frequently left in the sink unwashed. After a shower, you may see that the bathroom has not been cleaned. These things can be aggravating. And to avoid all these situations turning into heated arguments:

1. Remember to be rational in any scenario.
2. Try to handle these situations and mishaps with patience and a cool head.
3. Always try to communicate your point of view with a cool and friendly tone.

#3. BE CONSIDERATE

When you move in with someone new, you should follow this tip. It's a bit general, but it will serve you well. If you have someone over, ask your roommate if it's okay if they stay for a bit longer. Before taking their food, ask them first. Therefore, remember that you share a space with another human being, so consider their feelings when making decisions as your decisions indirectly affect them as well.

#4. DO YOUR CLEANING

Clean the shower area, wash your dishes, and do your laundry. A clean shower is ideal to step into when you're tidying yourself. The Bondi Sands fake tan can last a long time, especially on bathroom tiles, so remember to remind your flatmate about it.

You might want to set up a cleaning regimen with your flatmates if you suspect that cleaning once is leading to cleaning all the time. Sometimes, people tend to take advantage of you when you go out of your way a bit, so keep that in your mind.

#5. GET RID OF THE SNOOZE BUTTON

If you live in a shared space with flatmates, you might or might not be sharing your room. However, if you do have a roommate, the last thing you would want is to wake up two hours earlier than you should because of your roommate's phone alarm. And if you are an alarm abuser and can't resist the snooze button, place your phone on the other side of your bed - it will make you less likely to hit the snooze again by making you get up to turn off the noise. Then you are less likely to be hated by your roommate for disturbing their sleep.

#6. MAKE DECISIONS AS A GROUP

People feel marginalized, which leads to so many disagreements if you are making a major decision (especially one with a large financial impact), such as which energy supplier you want, where to get broadband, whether you

need a cleaner, whether a friend can stay, etc., you cannot scapegoat.

#7. MAKE A SET OF RULES

It's okay to set ground rules in advance to prevent misunderstandings, but you'll have a better chance of preventing them if you create them before you live with others. There are several areas where you share your rules with your flatmates. These include overnight guests, cleaning, meal sharing, billing, entering into each other's rooms, and other potential flashpoints which you think might be problematic if interfered with.

#8. BE RESPONSIBLE WITH YOUR FOOD

If you have a moldy banana in your fruit bowl, consider helping a friend out and composting it. You'll be helping your flatmates and planet Earth at the same time. As for the fridge: clean out the stinky week-old leftovers or half-emptied jars with whatever you ate from it.

Having to eat your flatmates' food is also a thorny matter regarding food responsibility. When it comes to food, the general rule is: if you eat it, replace it. Having said that, this is

not always the case. Maybe your flatmate was planning on using the last bit of their milk, which you just sucked down, on their breakfast this morning, so you won't even have time to replace it. So eat at your own peril and always ask before touching anyone's food!

#9. DON'T BLAST YOUR SPEAKERS

No matter how similar your taste in music or TV shows is to your flatmates/roommates, that does not mean they always want to hear what you're watching or listening to. So be considerate and don't put your speakers on blast. This will only annoy your flatmates and might lead to arguments. Instead, invest in good-quality headphones and wear them whenever you listen to music or watch a show, so your flatmates don't hate you.

#10. HAVE SOME ME-TIME

Sharing your space with others means a lot of socializing, which can eventually drain your energy, especially if you are an introvert. Remember that everyone needs time to unwind, no matter whether they're introverted or extroverted. Hence, make sure you spend some time with yourself and recharge

your social batteries by working on your job/studying or being alone.

THE LAST BITS

Most of us have lived in a co-living space at one time or another, and some still are. Co-living is an increasingly popular concept in every society, whether it is a dormitory experience in college or a remote job. Sometimes it can be a bit hectic as usual, people come from very different backgrounds, each person grew up in a different country or society which means he might not share similar interests, so always be considerate give them some time and learn about other's culture and background and communicate with them in a polite and friendly manner to enjoy living in a friendly and helpful environment.

CHAPTER TWO
CO-LIVING ETIQUETTES

Living with strangers in an apartment isn't something we are accustomed to naturally. When it comes to co-living, most find it unfamiliar. You are likely wondering if this "CO-LIVING" thing has any particular rules or etiquette guidelines. And the answer is YES; there are basic etiquettes you need to follow in order to create a pleasant environment for everyone sharing the space with you. If you are anxious and don't have any previous experience of sharing space, then I must tell you, "Worry not," because today we have compiled a set of guidelines just for people like you. So without further ado, let's jump into it!

BE FRIENDLY

The most important thing you'd want when you move in with your flatmates is to look approachable and friendly, so everyone can communicate with you openly and get to know you. It doesn't matter which member of the apartment you are good friends with already - being friendly is simply being polite and pleasant with everyone. The charm of a smile and politeness will surely go a long way!

LEARN ABOUT YOUR FLATMATES

It's critical that you make an effort to get to know your new roommates now that you've arrived. It's a fun experience when everyone in the house tries to remember each other's names and takes the time to introduce themselves. So sit down and chat with your flatmates about their likes and dislikes; this will benefit you in the long run, and don't forget to share a little about yourself too!

BE RESPONSIBLE

- * Don't leave dirty dishes in the sink for someone else to clean; you're responsible for your own dishes. Clean up after yourself in the kitchen, bathroom, or any other

communal space. If you're going to use a shared bathroom, pack your toiletries and take them with you when you're done. If you're eating out of a takeout container in a shared space, throw it away or recycle it when you're done. Little things like this contribute to the cleanliness and orderliness of the space.

* Keep your stuff neatly organized near your bed or utilize available closet space and drawers - they were designed for this purpose! The more organized you keep your room, the more likely your flatmates will follow your example.

KNOW YOUR BOUNDARIES

It is not uncommon for lines between private and communal areas to blur in communal living spaces such as coliving and cohousing. People tend to forget that others have boundaries and certain actions will trigger them. No matter how close you are to your flatmates, know your limitations. These boundaries could also be worldly, like a laptop or a phone charger or food, so always be respectful and ask for permission before crossing a line.

GIVE RESPECT

Having mutual respect for each other is an essential aspect of shared living. Treat your fellow co-living mates as equals, regardless of their backgrounds and cultures. It is okay not to always have the same views as others. However, that does not mean that you should treat them any differently than how you would like to be treated. So be respectful and civilized, respect your flatmates' opinions and choices, making them feel respected and comfortable.

RESPECT THE HOUSE RULES

You most certainly agreed to some house rules when you decided to join a co-living space, so make sure you know them and abide by them. House rules are in place to keep things in order, and adhering to them can make things run more smoothly.

BEFORE INVITING YOUR PALS OVER, CHECK WITH THE HOUSE

Even if it's simply a few people, inviting a group of pals over can be bothersome to the other flatmates. If you want to invite friends over, ask them first. They'll probably agree and

let you have your pals over. Of course, be respectful of the place by not being too loud, cleaning up after yourself, and being polite to all housemates who come and go.

KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN

No matter how similar your taste in music or TV shows is to your flatmates/roommates, that does not mean they always want to hear what you're watching or listening to. So be considerate and don't put your speakers on blast. This will only annoy your flatmates and might lead to you being represented as uncivilized or careless. Instead, buy yourself a pair of headphones and wear them whenever you listen to music or watch a show, so your flatmates don't hate you.

HAVE SMOKING ETHICS

If you see that majority of your flatmates are non-smokers or smoking is not permitted inside the residence. This may seem self-evident, but it's worth mentioning. Inquire with your co-living community manager or your flatmates about where you can smoke on or around the grounds. In many cases

smoking inside the residence can even cause termination of your lease.

KEEP YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS OUT OF THE COMMON SPACES

Common areas are places used by everyone. When you leave a communal space, put your personal items away like you throw things out when you're done eating. When you leave your belongings all over the place, it leaves less room for others to use the shared space. Furthermore, if you put your belongings in a shared location, others may mistakenly believe it is communal and use it for their own purposes or even break it. Always play it safe, and don't leave anything behind.

RESPECT THE QUIET HOURS

Treat your flatmates with the same respect you want for yourself. Everyone's sleep schedules vary, and quite hours help us respect them. During these quiet hours, be considerate and avoid loud phone calls, media streaming, or loud conversations in shared bedrooms or communal areas.

Avoid waking them up yourself if you don't like being woken up by someone else's noise.

WHENEVER PROBLEMS ARISE, COMMUNICATE

There's no doubt that conflicts can arise when you're living with multiple people. Some people don't do their dishes, others take other people's food, and others are constantly talking on the phone inside. Rather than being passive-aggressive, we recommend calmly communicating with the person causing the problem and confronting it head-on.

Passive aggression can really disrupt the atmosphere in the house, and it won't even reach the core of the problem to effect any change. It's time to bring in the house manager if there is an ongoing problem after communicating and talking it out with the person.

THE LAST BITS

Last but not least, have a good time! Make the most of your co-living experience by having fun. You're probably in a co-living scenario because you want a beautiful location to stay and work, but you're also there to meet new people and have new experiences. You're co-living for a reason. It's not always as straightforward as living at home in your own room. It's a good thing that your co-living experiences will be different from what you're used to. While co-living, you might make some of your fondest travel memories!

CHAPTER THREE

**HOW TO PREVENT AND HANDLE COVID IN
CO-LIVING**

Most of us have lived in a shared arrangement at one time or another, and some still are. Co-living is an increasingly popular concept in our society, whether it is a dormitory experience in college or a retirement community full of older people. And as for the current times, people living in shared spaces are much more prone to catching COVID-19. That's why you have to be extra careful and thoughtful of others in our flats, etc. Today in this guide, we're going to shed some light on how you can avoid COVID-19 while living in a shared space.

GET VACCINATED

The first and most crucial step is getting vaccinated or getting a booster to gain some immunity against COVID. Getting vaccinated is critical for keeping others safe, and vaccines offer good protection against severe illness and death.

To get long-lasting protection, all adults who have been vaccinated need to get a booster shot. Usually, a booster shot is required after some time has passed since the initial vaccination. With booster doses, you can reduce the risk of being infected by COVID-19 variants, such as Omicron.

EVERYDAY STEPS TO FOLLOW

- * Always wash your hands after returning home, eating, cleaning, and going to the bathroom.
- * Keep your hands clean by washing them frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- * Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.

* When coughing or sneezing, use a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Discard the used tissue and wash your hands afterward.

* Keep a distance of at least 2 feet from each other inside the flat.

* If you so desire to avoid COVID, warm water is preferable to cold. Make a habit of cleaning your water bottle daily.

* Avoid touching your flatmate's devices, such as laptops, phones, etc., as these electronics travel to places you have no idea of.

* 'Separate your personal items from one another. Cleaning the items that other flatmates used thoroughly.

* 'Using a standard cleanser and antiseptic, clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces twice a day or more. Toilets and sinks, door handles (including refrigerators), kitchen surfaces and small appliances (e.g., kettles, coffee makers), light switches, telephones, remote controls, and toys are examples of high-touch areas. When objects and high-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected, viruses

are less likely to be transmitted between people and objects.

- * Ensure that your living area is well ventilated. Make sure to open windows whenever possible.

- * If you're cooking for yourself and others, make sure you carefully wash all veggies. You can also soak them in warm water for a few minutes before cutting.

- * Consider wearing a mask when you enter crowds of people in indoor settings if someone in your household is unvaccinated or immunocompromised.

- * If at all possible, obtain yourself a single-shared room. Several co-living providers are considering such requests. You'll pay a bit more, but you'll reduce the risk of getting infected by a good margin.

MAKE A STRATEGY

- * 'If you get or someone gets COVID, make sure you have a plan for how to get care. Be sure everyone in your flat knows about that plan.
- * 'Share each other's doctor's contact information. Include your current medical conditions, such as asthma or diabetes, as well as the medications you take.
- * If you must stay isolated from everyone else for some time, make sure you have enough medication and supplies if you have any underlying conditions that put you at increased risk for severe illness from COVID.
- * 'If your roommate or flatmate has flu symptoms, see a doctor as soon as possible. When caring for him/her, take adequate precautions for yourself, such as wearing masks and gloves.
- * Separate a room specifically for isolation so the whole flat does not become contagious.

IF YOUR FLATMATE GETS INFECTED WITH COVID

- * Consider making a separate resting and healing area for that individual.
- * If a separate room isn't available for the infected one and the flatmates will be sharing it, make sure the room has excellent airflow.
- * Keep their space, as well as all other living spaces, as airy as possible. If the air quality is good, open the windows.
- * If you can, make sure the sick person has their own bathroom. Be sure to turn the exhaust fan on when the bathroom is being used.
- * The only bathroom in the facility should be cleaned thoroughly after each use by the infected person.
- * You should not share towels, bedding, food, utensils, and face coverings.
- * When offering care, hide your face.
- * In order to protect other flatmates from infection, the sick person needs to wear a face covering.

CONCLUSION

We are now living in a COVID post-era, and it looks like COVID isn't going away anywhere. In fact, it will keep transforming and hitting us with its new variants, so we should all be careful and thoughtful and take all the measures to keep ourselves as well as others safe from COVID 19. Be sure to wash your hands properly and keep a sanitizer in your pocket. Avoid crowded places outside of your apartment or flat, and inside, follow all the tips mentioned above in this guide. If you implement all these steps, you will be able to create a better and safer atmosphere inside your co-living space for everyone. Encourage others to learn these safety measures as well and fight COVID-19 together.

ABOUT ANNIE

Annie Haris, the author of “*How to live comfortably in a Co-Living space*” is a freelance writer with over three years of experience in content creation and writing. The experience she gained during her career involved managing complex writing projects for corporate clients with senior web developers. Over the course of her career, Annie has created SEO-centric content on a wide range of topics. Annie is a master of words, crafting content that touches people's hearts and wallets.



ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

KUMMUNI is a Berlin-based real estate Tech startup. Although countless real estate startups claim to be High-Tech, we are among the few businesses which are actually utilizing technology. With the help of technology, not only have we overcome discrimination in housing, but we have also taken a new step to transform this industry. KUMMUNI is the first and to date the only furnished property rental company that gives its tenants the freedom to choose their own furniture at no extra cost.

To us, home is where everyone's story begins. It is a safe place where we can go as we wish without being questioned. With us, you don't need to bother about your language, race or color as we accommodate people irrespective of their descent, accent or nationality. KUMMUNI is more concerned about you having an enjoyable and fruitful stay in Germany. We believe that finding an apartment doesn't have to be a struggle. So we make your dream of having an affordable, homely and comfortable space a reality.

We focus on the market of short-term rental of apartments to international students and young professionals, and in 2020 alone we were able to host hundreds of foreign tenants from all seven continents.

Our goal is to provide affordable furnished apartments. Therefore, not only are all costs such as energy and internet included in the monthly rent, but the necessary repairs will be done by us at no extra costs. You are just a few clicks away from your new home – whether in our Co-Living Apartments or our studio apartments. Book your place right now and immediately choose the furniture you want at no extra cost.